

## Contributions

### REVIVAL MEETINGS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITH PRAYERFUL HEARTS

ARTHUR HILL

We know that method is not everything but it is something, and often has a great deal to do with the success or failure of a series of evangelistic meetings or services. There is no such a thing as stereotyped method for conducting revival services and it is well that there is not, for there are scarcely two men to be found who can work successfully by the same rule. Every man should have the courage of his own convictions and so far as possible, adopt that method which he can carry out to the best advantage. Ministers may and indeed ought to learn a great deal from each other, but it is neither wise nor safe for one minister to arbitrarily adopt the method of another, for the chances are that he cannot carry it out successfully. Congregations sometimes stand in the way of the pastor and sometimes the preacher wants to do all the talking and praying and the choir wants to do or does all the singing and sometimes the members are not agreed among themselves, some want this and others that. In such cases a wise pastor will get his people together and will counsel with them, and as much as possible secure their good will, harmony and active co-operation in saving souls. This is very essential in order to reach the best results. For want of consent of action and good will toward all, many efforts literally fail. Then too, the pastor should organize the force around him, find some thing for every one to do. Pastors often fail because they try to do everything themselves. Two things should be carefully guarded against. First, not to adopt any method that will interfere with the free and full operation of the Holy Spirit; without his immediate presence and help there can be no such thing as a genuine revival; he must and will have his own way. That pastor and congregation which follows the leading of the divine will but seldom fail of having success. But some men seem to think that they know more or better than the Holy Spirit. They will accept a revival provided that it will come the way they want it to. Some want it to come like a whirlwind, while others want it to come in a very quiet way. Thus dictating to the Spirit what he may or may not do. Poor frail man, how wise he imagines himself to be. The only sure road to success is for the pastor and his people to put themselves under the influence of, and under the direction of the Holy Spirit. He is the executive office of the Holy Trinity, the only agent, while man is only an instrument under his direction. Happy the people who can realize this great truth.

Second, let no method be adopted that stops short of a genuine work, of grace wrought in the heart. Some souls are awakened by the good spirit and take some steps in the right direction, but they are stopped

or turned aside by the wrong instructions. They are told to believe that Jesus is the Christ. Join the church and observe the ordinances and all will be right. Nine-tenths of the unsaved believe Jesus is the Christ but they are not converted. Simon believed all this and was baptized in His name, but he was not converted. It is one thing to believe that Jesus is the Christ and quite another thing to believe on Christ to the saving of the soul. Many who thus come into the church have not an ounce of personal experience or change of heart and know nothing about the witness of the spirit. Methods change and doubtless ought to change, but some things never will be changed. They are fixed. Regeneration and the witness of the Spirit abide. They are just the same today that they were in the days of Christ and the apostles. God has provided for the development and uplifting of the whole man, physically, intellectually and spiritually, and neither will answer for the other. However closely they may be joined together, yet each is distinct from the other so that neither is the other. Mathematics is good to strength and develop the intellect but dry food for the physical needs. Why not readily and cheerfully accept of God's order; why seek to put one thing in place of another. There is food for the body, food for the intellect and food for the soul. Why not use these as God has arranged them. Any method that will prevent or disarrange God's order is not only hurtful but sinful. Let us, therefore, have genuine revivals of religion—spiritual revivals.

Let each pastor adopt the method which he can carry forward to the best possible advantage, only let the end be the salvation of souls. Our divine Lord said, "Ye must be born again of the Spirit." Paul said, "if any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away and behold all things are become new." Let each adopt this standard and accept nothing below it. Whether revival meetings are conducted boisterously or quietly there must be a deep soul earnestness. Everything, the singing, praying, preaching and personal conversation with the unsaved should point in one direction. It is a mighty work to bring a soul to Christ, all heaven is interested. Our divine Lord is interceding, the Holy Spirit is working and the angels are watching and waiting. That pastor and congregation which realize what is implied and included in the salvation of our immortal soul will move and act as in the presence of the Almighty. May we not join with the pious and the soul burdened Habakkuk and pray, Oh, Lord receive thy work, in the midst of the years make it known, in wrath remember mercy. Habak 3: 2.

*Middle Branch, Ohio.*

#### PATIENCE

R. R. TEETER

Wonderful possession! How much we need it, how little of it we possess! It is one of the most beautiful traits of a Christian character. Something to be greatly de-

sired, to be earnestly sought after. It is worthy of enthusiastic pursuit, of triumphant possession, of vigilant preservation. It is a safety valve to temper, a sweet spice to disposition.

Notwithstanding all this, if it grows at all it grows as a wild uncultivated rose in the garden of too many hearts.

All classes need to cultivate it more carefully, need to nourish it as a precious hot-house plant, tender and unused to storms or cold chilling blasts.

When a congregation does not come up to the standard, or does not meet the preacher's expectation, it is not for him to run away seeking a more congenial clime, but to follow Paul's instruction to Timothy to be "gentle to all men, apt to teach, patient."

When a preacher does not meet the highest expectancy of his people, it is not for them to cry out, "We must have another shepherd." But it is for them to patiently seek the causes of the apparent failure and see if it is not possible to overcome the preacher's lack of eloquence by a faithfulness in Christian service and daily life that shall accomplish what the preacher cannot from the pulpit. A little more patience on the part of the pew will invariably result in vastly more power in the pulpit.

When some brother or sister in the church does not live up to our standard of Christian service, it is not for us to hastily condemn them for their weakness, but rather to follow Paul's instruction to the Thessalonians to "support the weak, be patient to all men."

When our Missionary Board does not report the progress for which we are looking, or our Publishing House does not show the advance we would like, or our college does not seem to make an unparalleled success and we are inclined to become fretful and faultfinding, then is the time for us to learn that "tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope." Thus we can patiently hope for better things.

Fathers and mothers have many opportunities to exercise this rare virtue in the home where it will prove one of the most valuable lubricants ever used on the journals of family machinery. In fact there is no person in any situation who cannot exercise it with profit, and certainly we will all confess that we need more of it.

*Milledgeville, Ill.*

#### PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERINGS

J. L. GILLIN

A few days ago I called upon a lady in Waterloo who has been a bed ridden invalid for more than thirty years. She has suffered pain almost incessantly. I had often heard of her sweet, Christian character, and this day when I went to read and pray with her in addition to her usual malady she had the quinsy so badly she could scarcely articulate a word. The instant I entered she began to tell me how glad she was I had come, how good everyone was to her, how good the Lord had always been to her, and how much she had to be thankful for. I could not